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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To increase access to agency guidance documents.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. WALKER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To increase access to agency guidance documents.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Guidance Out Of
5 Darkness Act” or the “GOOD Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) AGENCY.—The term “agency” has the
9 meaning given that term in section 551 of title 5,
10 United States Code.

1 (2) GUIDANCE DOCUMENT.—The term “guid-
2 ance document”—

3 (A) means the whole or a part of an agen-
4 cy statement of general or particular applica-
5 bility and future effect that—

6 (i) is designed to implement, inter-
7 pret, or prescribe law or policy or describ-
8 ing the organization, procedure, or practice
9 requirements of an agency and includes the
10 approval or prescription for the future of
11 rates, wages, corporate or financial struc-
12 tures or reorganizations thereof, prices, fa-
13 cilities, appliances, services or allowances
14 therefor or of valuations, costs, or account-
15 ing, or practices bearing on any of the
16 foregoing; and

17 (ii) has not been issued through the
18 notice and comment process under section
19 553 of title 5, United States Code;

20 (B) includes—

21 (i) a memorandum;

22 (ii) a notice;

23 (iii) a bulletin;

24 (iv) a directive;

25 (v) a news release;

1 (vi) a letter; and

2 (vii) a blog post; and

3 (C) does not include a rule, as that term
4 is defined in section 551 of title 5, United
5 States Code.

6 **SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS ON THE**
7 **INTERNET.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—On the date on which an agency
9 issues a guidance document, the agency shall publish the
10 guidance document on the Internet website of the agency.

11 (b) PREVIOUSLY ISSUED GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS.—
12 Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this
13 Act, each agency shall publish on the Internet website of
14 that agency any guidance document issued by that agency
15 during the 10-year period ending on the date of enactment
16 of this Act.

17 (c) SINGLE LOCATION.—All guidance documents
18 published under subsections (a) and (b) by an agency shall
19 be published in a single location on the Internet website
20 of the agency.

21 (d) RESCINDED GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS.—On the
22 date on which a guidance document issued by an agency
23 is rescinded, the agency shall—

24 (1) maintain the rescinded guidance document
25 at the location described in subsection (c); and

1 (2) at the location described in subsection (c),
2 indicate—
3 (A) that the guidance document is re-
4 scinded; and
5 (B) the date on which the guidance docu-
6 ment was rescinded.